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MONTANA CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMS

The Montana Cancer Control Programs

The Montana Cancer Control Programs (MCCP) is a part of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Bureau in the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The Montana Cancer Control Programs include the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Cancer Screening Program and the Cancer Surveillance and Epidemiology Program. The MCCP receives grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State Special Revenue funds to implement cancer control activities.

A. Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program coordinates a statewide collaborative effort to implement the Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Comprehensive Cancer Control is broadly defined as “a coordinated approach to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of cancer through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation”. This approach integrates multiple disciplines including administration, research, clinical services, evaluation, health education, program development, grassroots services, data analysis, public policy, surveillance and health communications in a coordinated cooperative effort to address cancer prevention and control in Montana.

- **Local Contractors**

The MCCP has thirteen contractors statewide implementing Comprehensive Cancer Control throughout the state of Montana. This is accomplished by building local coalitions, implementing public education activities, partnering with organizations or systems to achieve increased cancer screening rates and performing evidence-based cancer control activities.

- **Montana Cancer Control Coalition**

The Montana Cancer Control Coalition (MTCCC) is a group that represents a broad spectrum of partners who want to reduce the burden of cancer in Montana. The Coalition works together to implement Montana’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Currently there are over 160 members. The MTCCC includes cancer survivors, caregivers, medical professionals, hospital administrators, legislators, representatives of nonprofits, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), private and public organizations and other health advocates – all sharing their knowledge, experience and expertise. There are biannual statewide MTCCC meetings.

- **Statewide Partnerships**

The MCCP is establishing partnerships to address cancer prevention and control by reducing duplication of services and maximizing resources available. Partnership activities include education, influencing decision makers, collecting and sharing data and implementing systems change for increased cancer screening rates.

B. Cancer Screening Program

The Cancer Screening Program supports comprehensive cancer control in Montana by providing ongoing quality screening services to Montana men and women and education in a manner that is appropriate, accessible, cost-effective and sensitive to the client's needs. Screening services include mammograms, clinical breast exams, Pap tests and pelvic exams for the early detection of breast and cervical cancers and colonoscopies and FOBT tests for the early detection of colorectal cancer. Diagnostic testing is also provided for the follow-up of abnormal screening tests. The eligibility guidelines for enrolling in the screening program include age, income and insurance.

- **Local Contractors**

The MCCP has thirteen local contractors located throughout the state of Montana. The contractors provide and facilitate screening support activities for eligible Montanans, maintain a medical service provider network by enrolling qualified medical service providers to provide colorectal, breast and cervical cancer screening services and collect data on the screening services provided.

- **Medical Service Providers**

The MCCP has 900 enrolled medical service providers who practice in all parts of Montana. These providers provide colorectal cancer screening to men and women and breast and cervical cancer screening services to women in the targeted age and population including those providing services through the Indian Health Service or tribal health.

- **American Indian Screening Initiative**

The MCCP established the American Indian Screening Initiative (AISI) in year 2000 to focus on the screening of American Indian women. As part of the AISI, the leadership of the Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program initiated the formulation of the Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition (MAIWHC). In early March and June 2001, they brought together 25 Indian women, representative of their Tribal Communities and Tribal Health Systems, Urban Health Programs and Urban Communities. The MAIWHC is a grassroots coalition to assist MCCP in recruitment and screening of American Indian women for breast and cervical cancer.

In 2005, the American Indian Screening Initiative Phase II was established. Continuing with the mission of MAIWHC a variety of methods were used to implement the AISI Phase II including one to one relationships with American Indian women on the reservations and in urban areas, the MAIWHC and American Indian subcontracts through the regional contractors. Also as part of the AISI, the MCCP established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Billings area Indian Health Service, the Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chippewa and Cree Tribes to provide breast and cervical cancer screening to American Indian women and colorectal cancer screening for American Indian men and women.

Nearly half of Montana's American Indian population lives on one of seven reservations, which lie in frontier counties. This geographical isolation is a specific barrier for American Indian men and women and is addressed in the MCCP's American Indian Screening Initiative. AISI phase III will be implemented in 2010 to include broader cancer focus and initiatives to reach American Indian men and women. The MAIWHC will have stronger representation on the MTCCC to assist in educating and screening American Indian people in Montana.

c. Cancer Surveillance and Epidemiology Program

The Cancer Surveillance and Epidemiology Program (CSEP) use data from the Montana Central Tumor Registry, the Montana Office of Vital Statistics and other sources to monitor trends in cancer incidence and mortality. The Program publishes Quarterly Surveillance Reports, annual Tumor Registry Reports and reports on special topics.

In addition, the CSEP responds to inquiries from public health officials and private citizens about cancer concerns. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has a Cluster Investigation Team and protocol in place to respond to inquiries about cancer throughout the state.

The Montana Central Tumor Registry (MCTR) has been collecting data continuously since 1979. The MCTR is the primary source of cancer statistics (incidence, trends and survival) in Montana. The data from the MCTR is disseminated in an annual report form. The data that are collected and managed by the MCTR are the primary source of information regarding cancer incidence in Montana. The MCTR maintains a data-management system on the diagnosis, treatment and outcome of cancer and other reportable tumors in Montana.

The primary objective of the MCTR is to analyze the incidence, mortality, survival and the changing frequency of cancer in Montana residents.

Follow-up is conducted yearly on patients registered on the MCTR and is a necessary part of adequate care for cancer patients. All data concerning cancer patients are held in strict confidence by the MCTR.